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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

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EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 7 April 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. On 8 and 9 March 1954, swept-back jet fighters practiced flying at high altitudes in formations of threes and fours. The weather was fair. At 3 p.m. on 10 March, MIG-15s or U-MIG-15s took off and flew in elements of two. An aircraft was seen towing an air sleeve and at the same time aerobatics were practiced at high altitudes.

2. Between 4:45 p.m. and 6 p.m. on 10 March, swept-back jet fighters practiced flying. The weather was fair. Throughout the day on 12 March, there was air activity, including flying at high altitudes. About 6:30 p.m., flying was discontinued and motor vehicles which had been parked at the take-off point left the field. A radar set, probably a Token-type, was observed in the northeastern corner of the field for the first time.² Trucks [REDACTED] were identified at the field.

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3. At 10:20 a.m. on 11 March, 2 swept-back jet fighters took off for a flight of about 30 minutes duration. After landing, the aircraft were parked near the hangars. No other air activity was observed between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. that day. Small groups of soldiers were seen practicing with 37-mm AA guns and other equipment at the southern edge of the field. Other details of men practiced transferring and taking up telephone lines. At the flying lane, about 30 men received instruction on the range finder and the aiming circle. [REDACTED]

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. Koethen airfield is occupied by a fighter regiment, equipped with about 20 MIG-15s.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. Previously, Token-type radar sets were only observed at airfields occupied by division headquarters. On the assumption that the observation made by source was correct it appears possible that the division headquarters transferred from Merseburg to Koethen or that airfields in the western part of East Germany or all over East Germany are going to be equipped with that type of radar set.

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